DC
POWER GIRL
1
FIRST ISSUE
JUL '09
GRAY
PALMIOTTI
CONNER
CONNER & MOUNTS
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DC
1
FIRST ISSUE
JUL '09
IT'S OKAY!
POWER GIRL
IS HERE!
GRAY
PALMIOTTI
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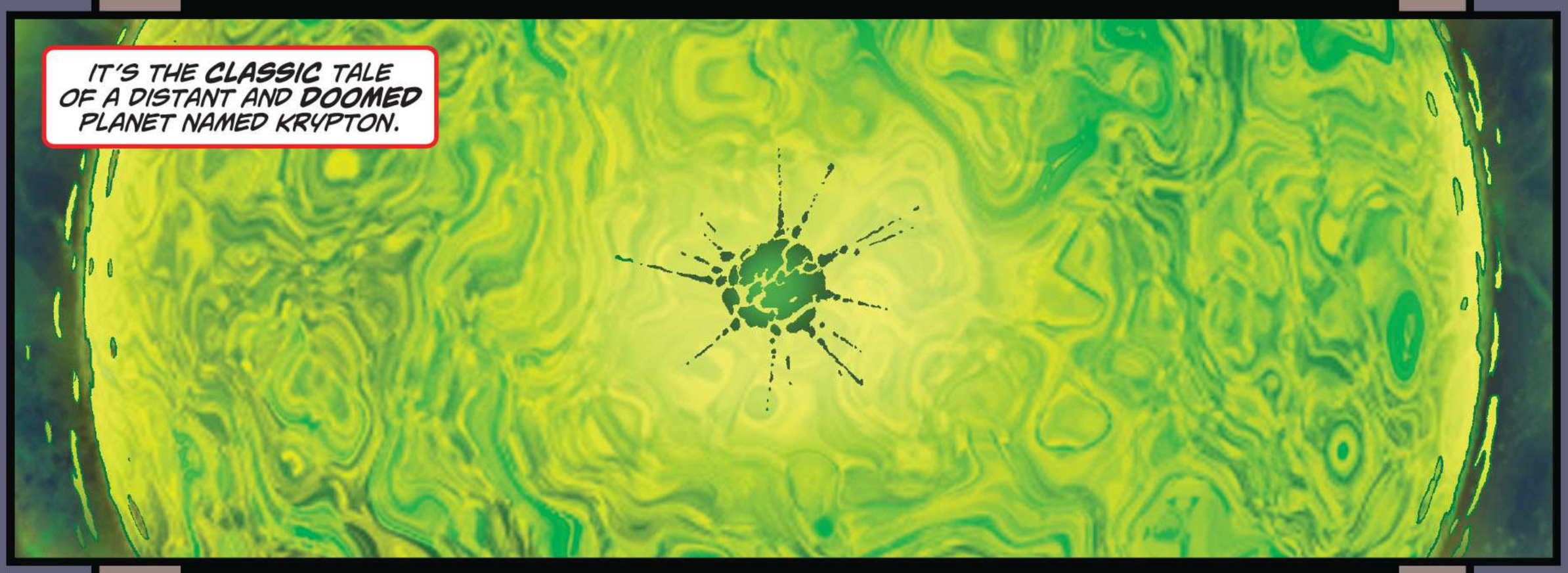
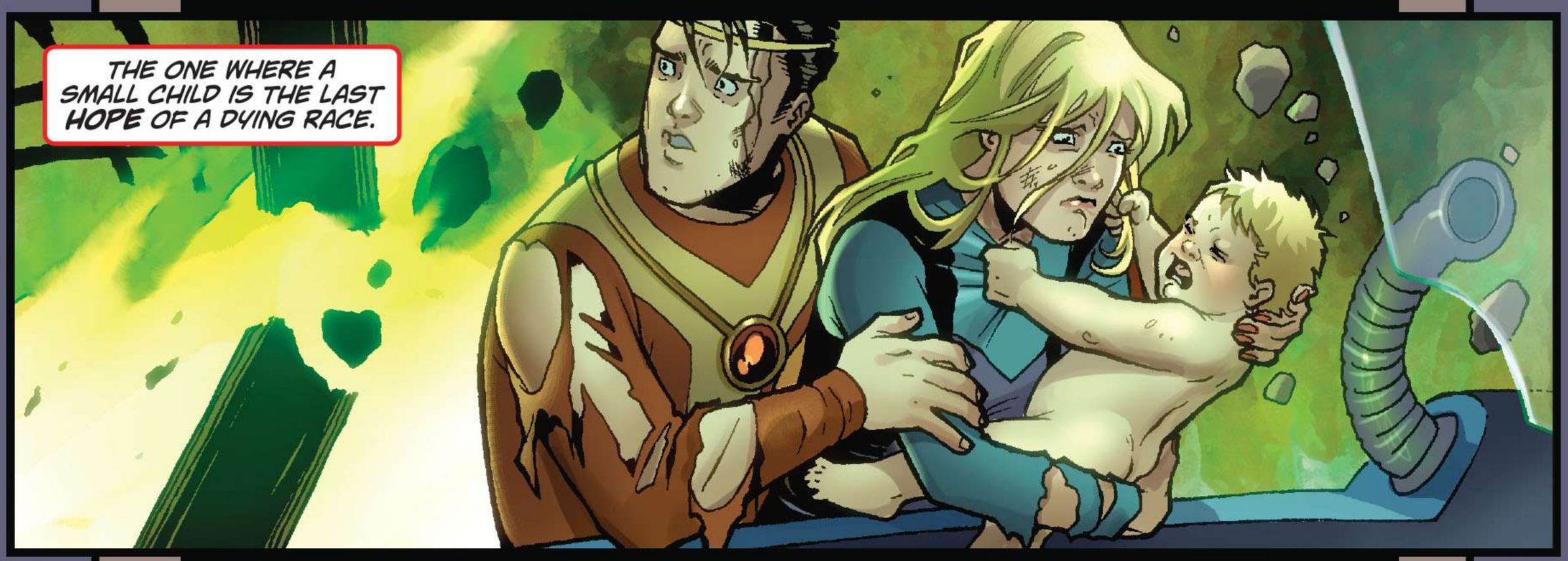
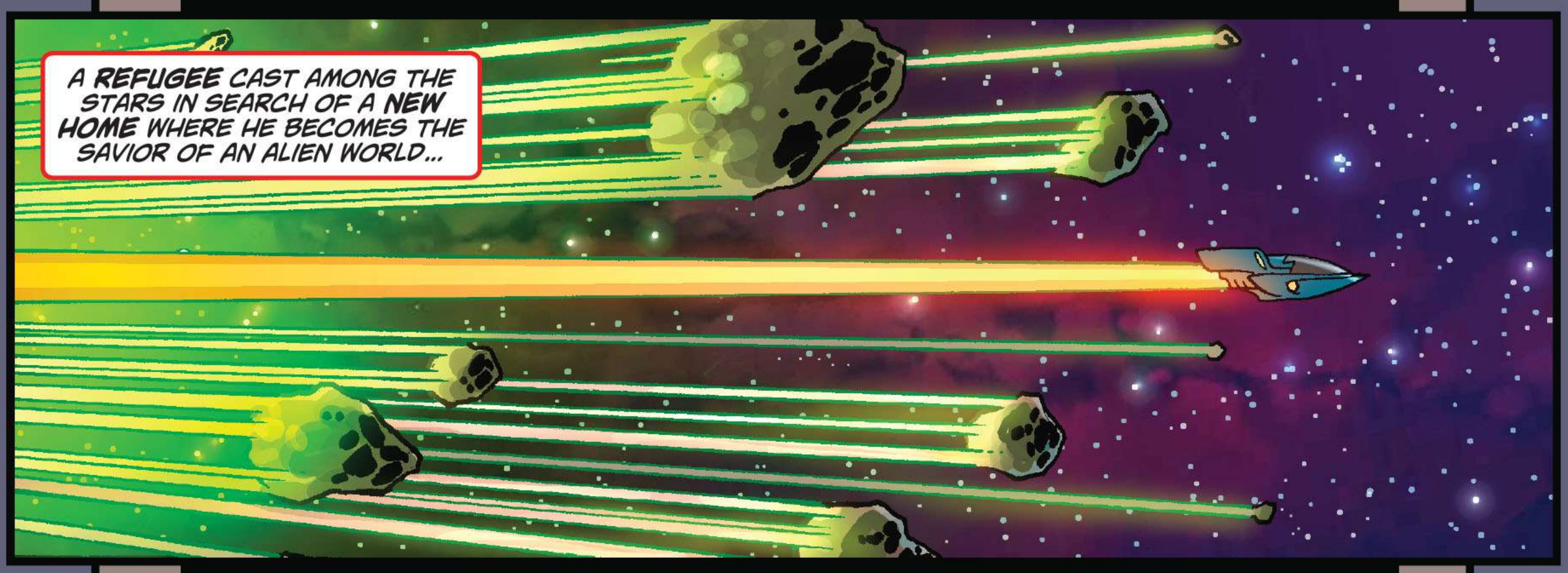
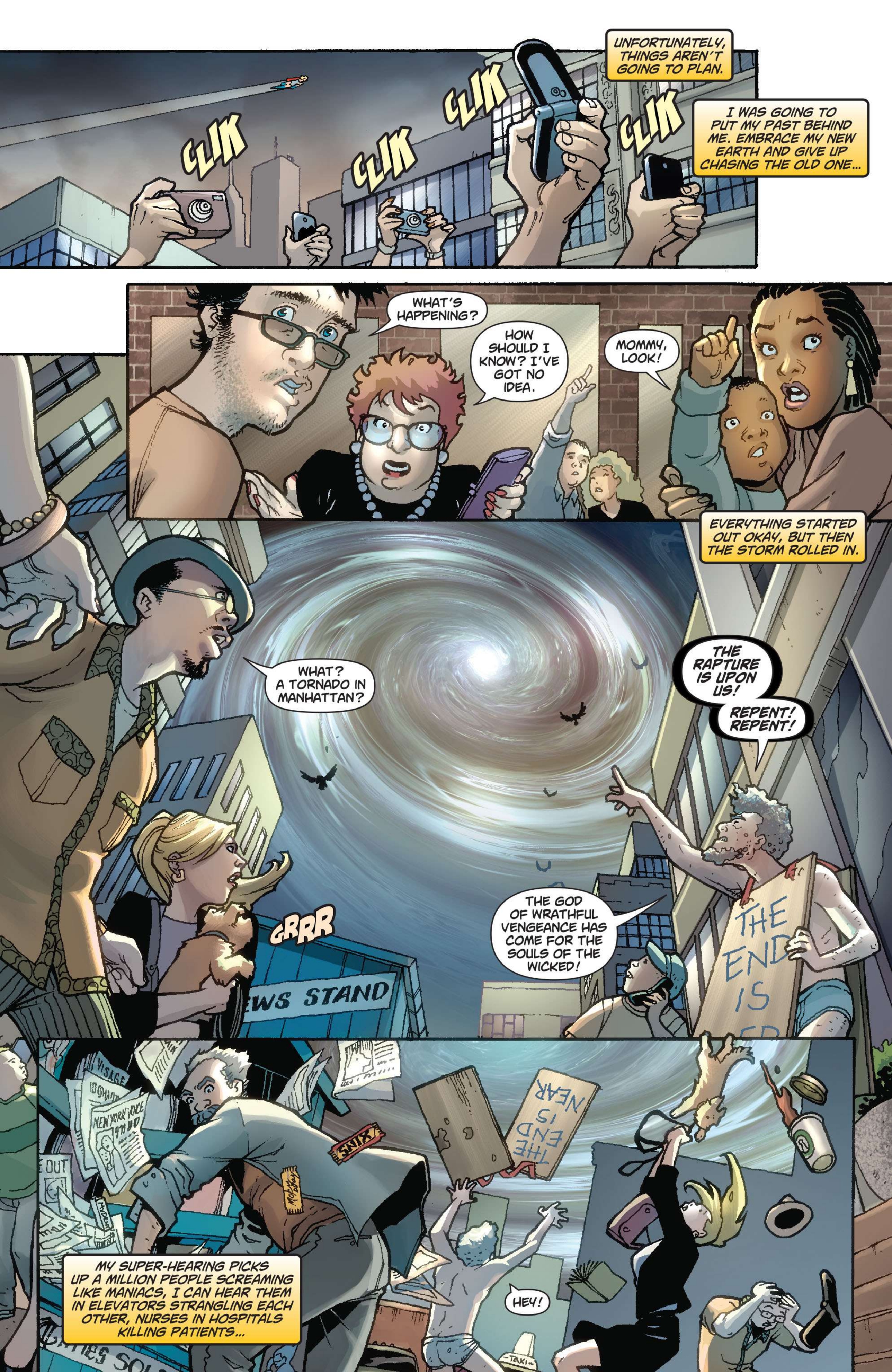




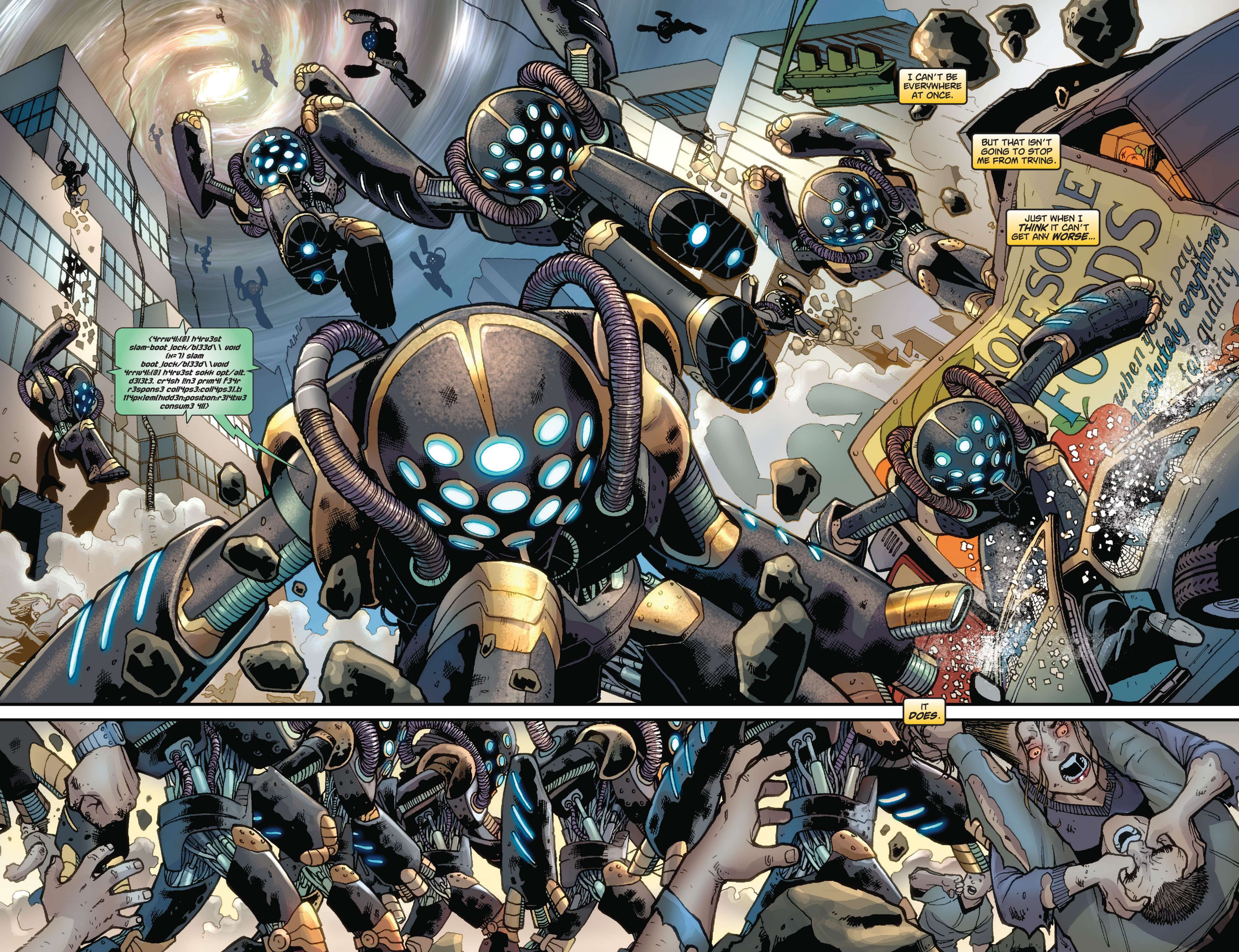


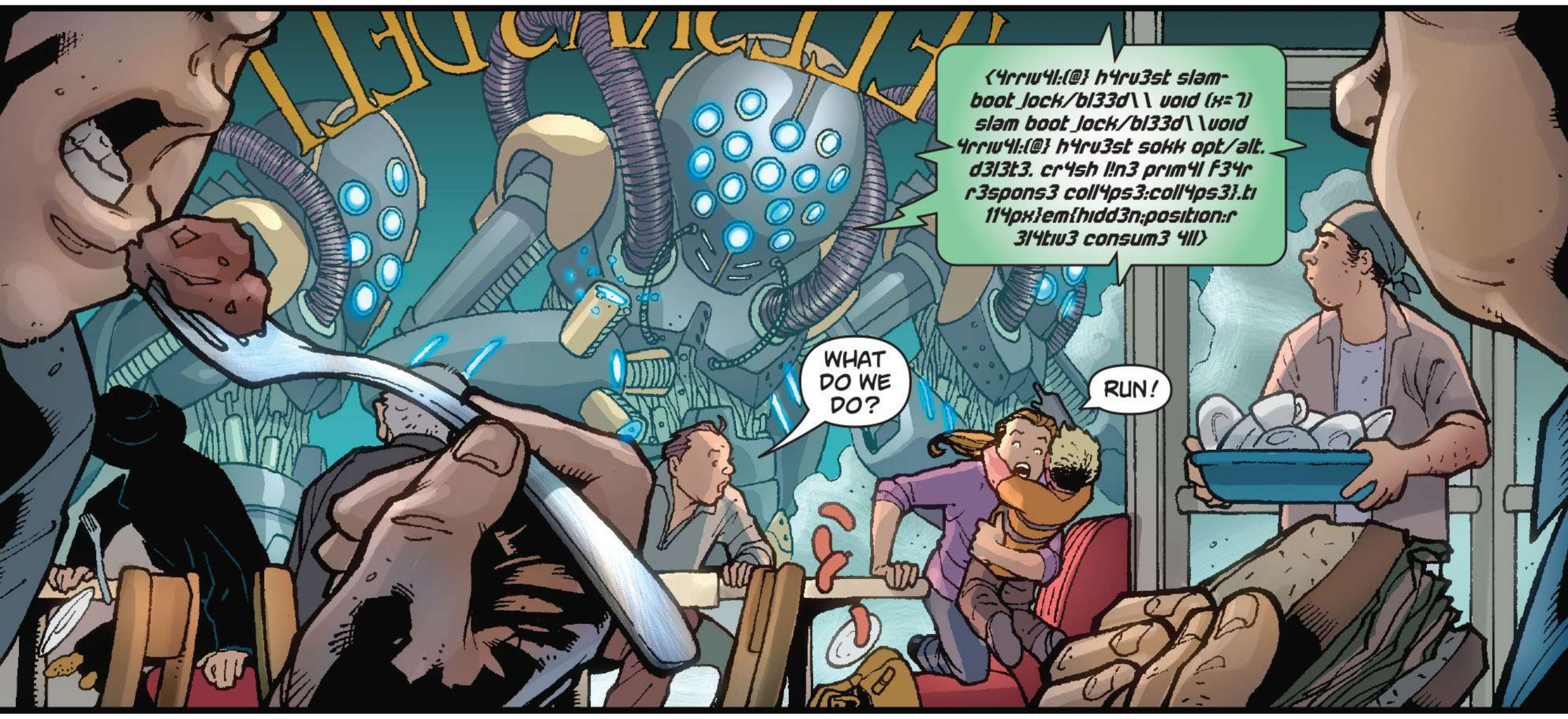
CONVERSION BY WILDSTORM

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK...
...THERE'S NO BETTER CITY IN THIS WORLD TO GET A FRESH START.
LADY LIBERTY STANDS AT THE GATEWAY TO A NEW WORLD FULL OF PROMISE, THE PLACE WHERE IMMIGRANTS FLOCKED BY THE MILLIONS FOR THE CHANCE OF A BETTER LIFE.
THEY CHANGED THEIR NAMES. THEY CHANGED THEIR IDENTITIES. THEY WANTED A CLEAN SLATE TO REMAKE THEMSELVES. WHICH HAS ME THINKING...
WHAT ABOUT MY LIFE? I DON'T SEEM TO BELONG ANYWHERE.
I'M FROM A DISTANT PLANET CALLED KRYPTON. I FIRST LANDED ON A PARALLEL EARTH SIMILAR TO THIS ONE WHERE I WAS A MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY. THERE WAS A CRISIS AND SOMEHOW I WOUND UP HERE, CUT OFF FROM EVERYTHING I KNEW AND EVERYONE I LOVED.
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, ALL I WANTED WAS TO GET BACK TO EARTH 2, TO SEE MY FRIENDS AND MY COUSIN KAL-L. WHEN IT FINALLY HAPPENED I FOUND OUT THAT I'D BEEN REPLACED BY ANOTHER VERSION OF MYSELF...
YEAH, IF THERE'S ANYONE ON THIS PLANET THAT DESPERATELY NEEDS A FRESH START...
IT'S ME.
Power Girl!
in: A New BEGINNING
written by JUSTIN GRAY & JIMMY PALMIOTTI
art by AMANDA CONNER
colored by PAUL MOUNTS
lettering by JOHN J. HILL
assisted by REX OGLE
edited by BRIAN CUNNINGHAM
special thanks to DAN DIDIO


CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
UNFORTUNATELY, THINGS AREN'T GOING TO PLAN.
I WAS GOING TO PUT MY PAST BEHIND ME. EMBRACE MY NEW EARTH AND GIVE UP CHASING THE OLD ONE...
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I'VE GOT NO IDEA.
MOMMY, LOOK!
EVERYTHING STARTED OUT OKAY, BUT THEN THE STORM ROLLED IN.
WHAT? A TORNADO IN MANHATTAN?
THE RAPTURE IS UPON US!
REPENT! REPENT!
GRRR
THE GOD OF WRATHFUL VENGEANCE HAS COME FOR THE SOULS OF THE WICKED!
THE END IS
MY SUPER-HEARING PICKS UP A MILLION PEOPLE SCREAMING LIKE MANIACS, I CAN HEAR THEM IN ELEVATORS STRANGLING EACH OTHER, NURSES IN HOSPITALS KILLING PATIENTS...
HEY!
TAXI

KA-THOOOOM
KA-THOOOOM
THE STORM IS RESONATING SOME KIND OF EMOTIONAL SHOCK WAVE THAT IS TURNING MANHATTAN INTO A HORROR MOVIE.
KRASH
HYSTERIA IS SWEEPING ACROSS THE CITY.
GUNSHOTS ALL GOING OFF AT ONCE IN BROOKLYN, QUEENS, AND STATEN ISLAND...
THERE ARE OVER EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE IN NEW YORK AND IF I DON'T STOP THIS NOW, THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT LESS.
309
DILLON'S
Bar & Grill
KACHA-BOOOOW
GOD HELP US!


I CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.
BUT THAT ISN'T GOING TO STOP ME FROM TRYING.
JUST WHEN I THINK IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE...
<4rrw4l:[@] h4ru3st slam-boot_lock/bl33d\\ void (x=7) slam boot_lock/bl33d\\ void 4rrw4l:[@] h4ru3st sokk opt/alt. d3l3t3. cr4sh l!n3 prim4l f34r r3spons3 coll4ps3:coll4ps3l.t1 114p+lem{hidd3n;position:r3l4tiw3 consum3 4ll>
IT DOES.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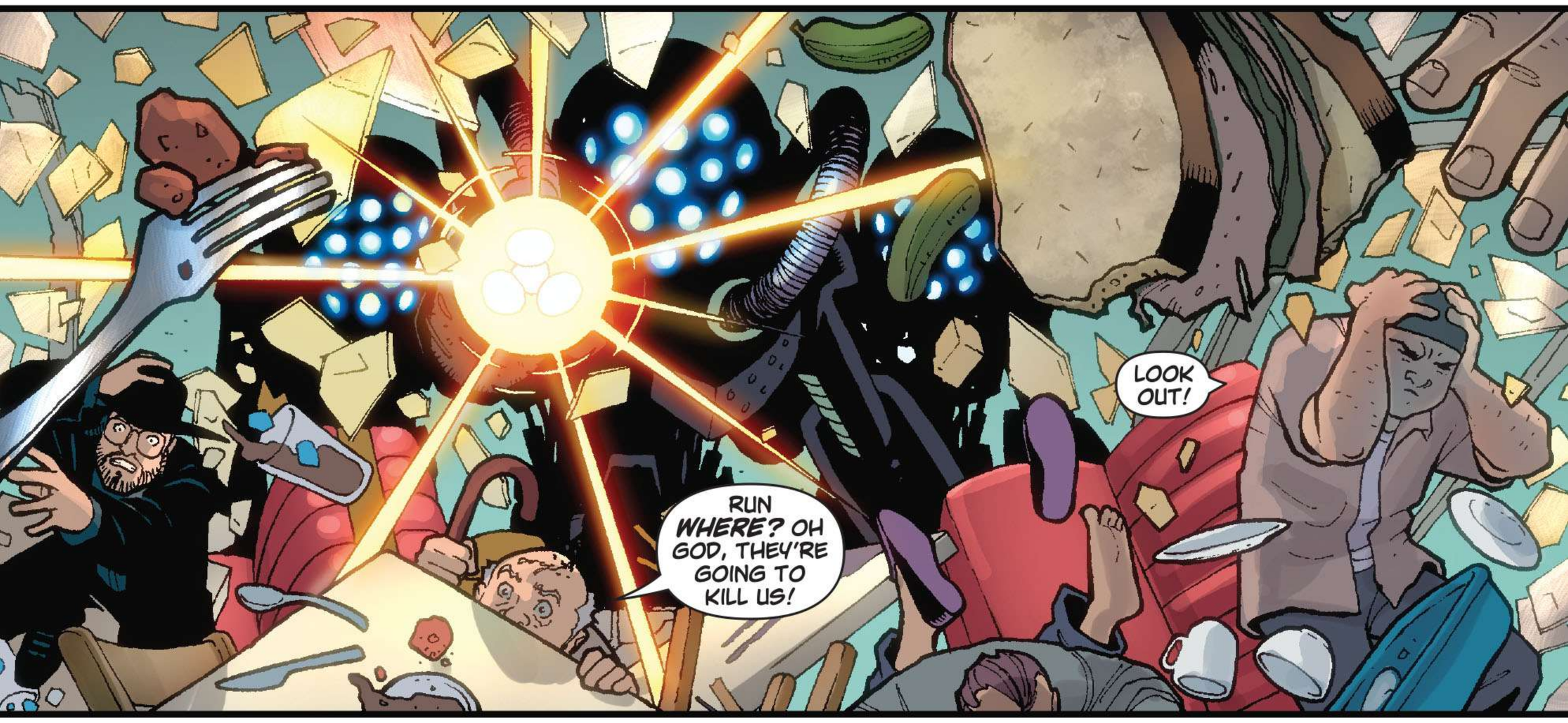
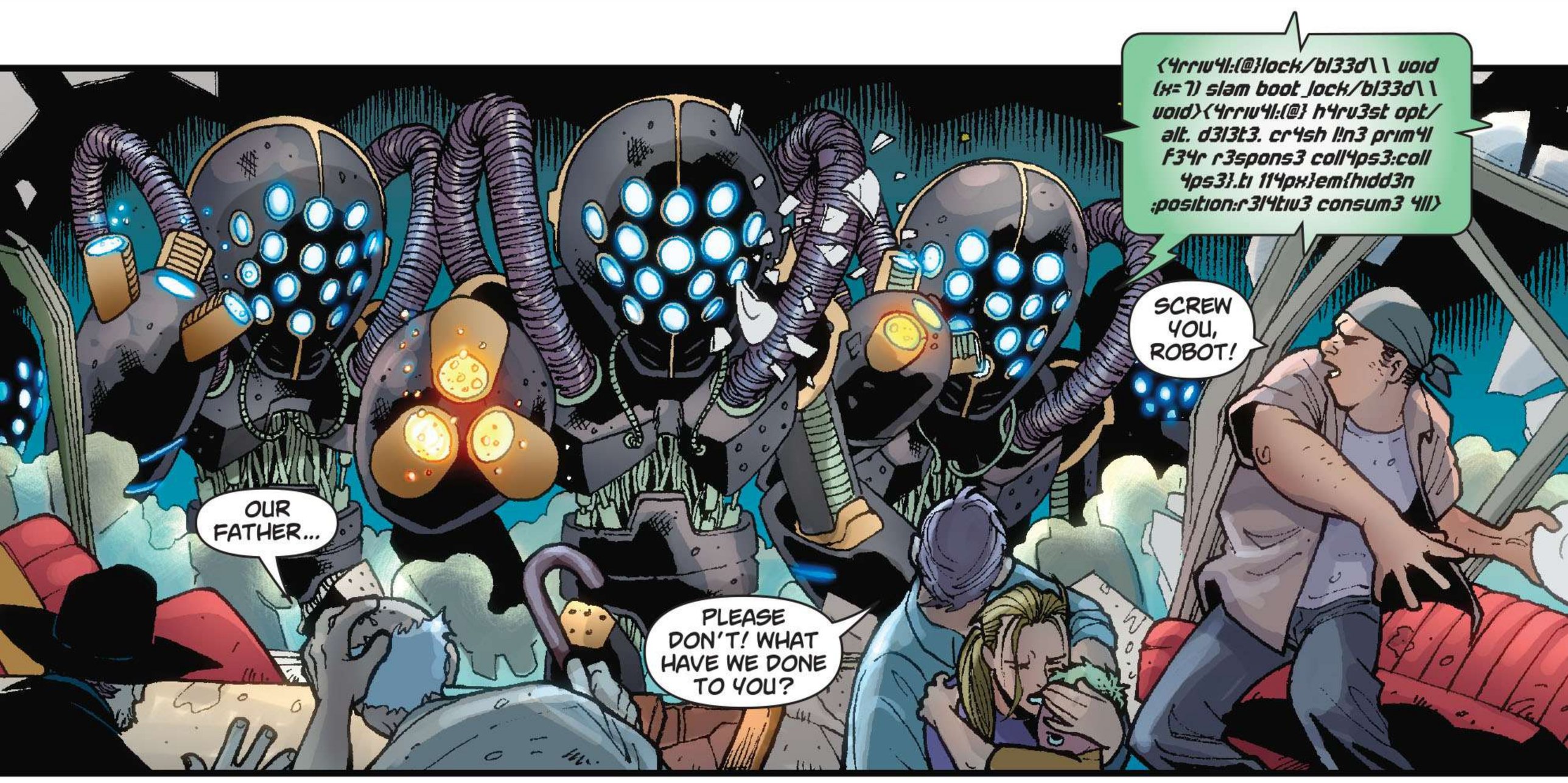
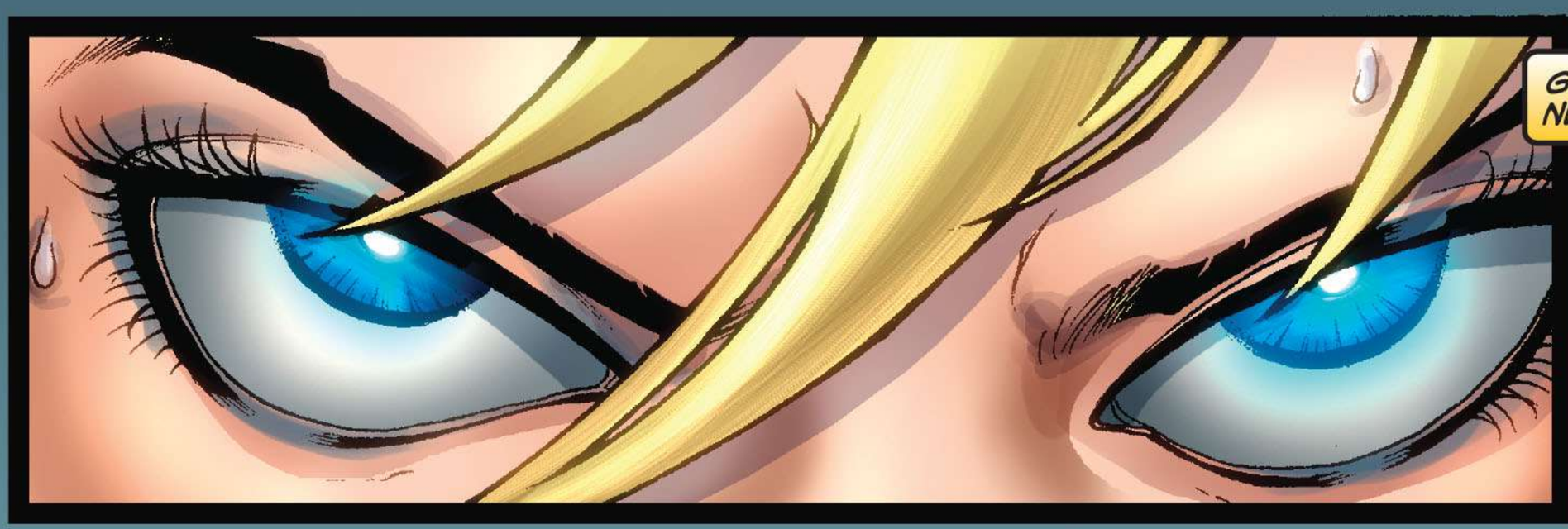
WHAT DO WE DO?
RUN!


LOOK OUT!
RUN WHERE? OH GOD, THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US!

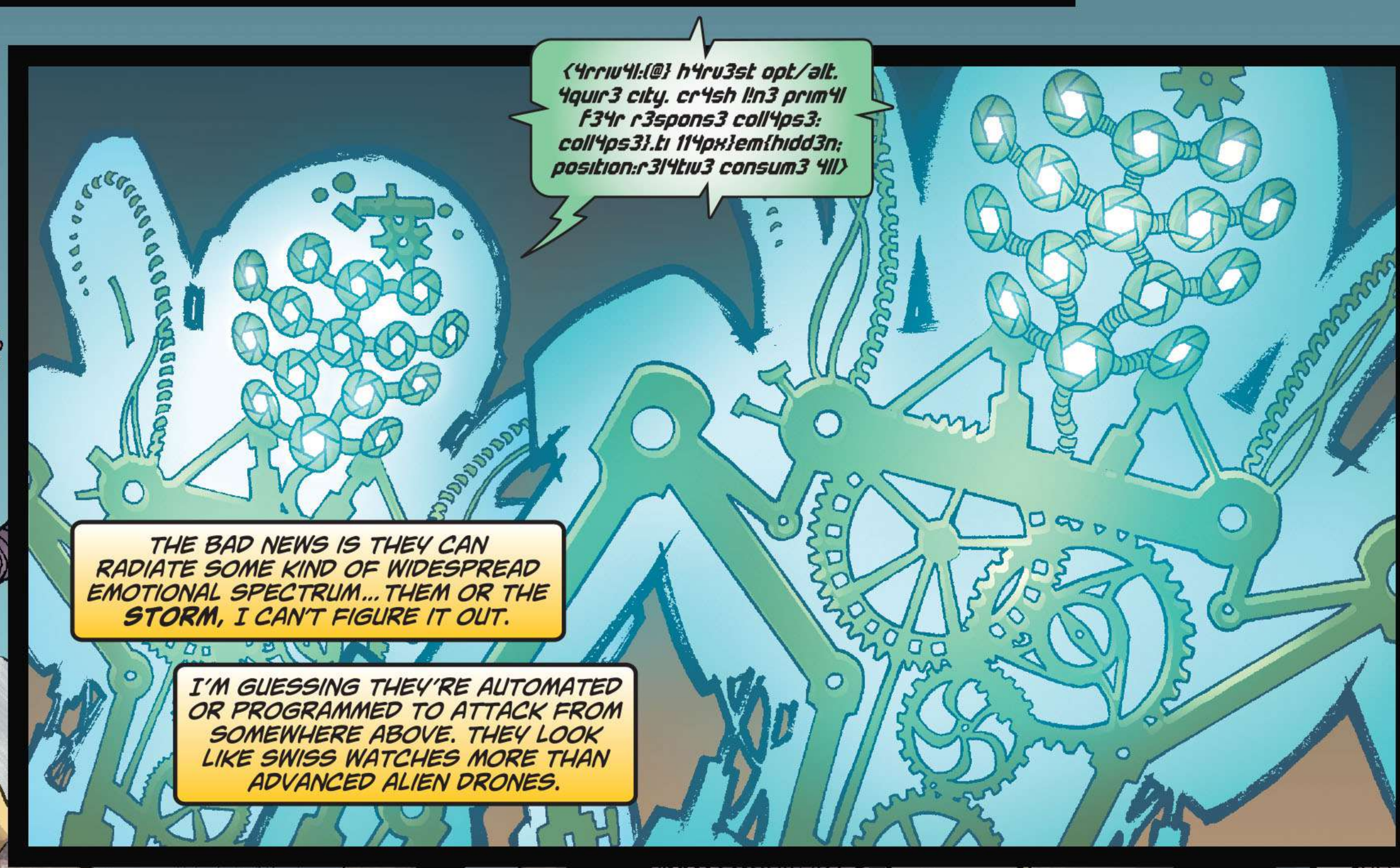

<4rriw4l:{@}lock/bl33d\\ void (x=7) slam boot_lock/bl33d\\ void><4rriw4l:{@} h4ru3st opt/alt. d3l3t3. cr4sh l!n3 prim4l f34r r3spons3 coll4ps3:coll 4ps3}.ti 114px}em{hidd3n :position:r3l4tiw3 consum3 4ll>
SCREW YOU, ROBOT!
OUR FATHER...
PLEASE DON'T! WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO YOU?

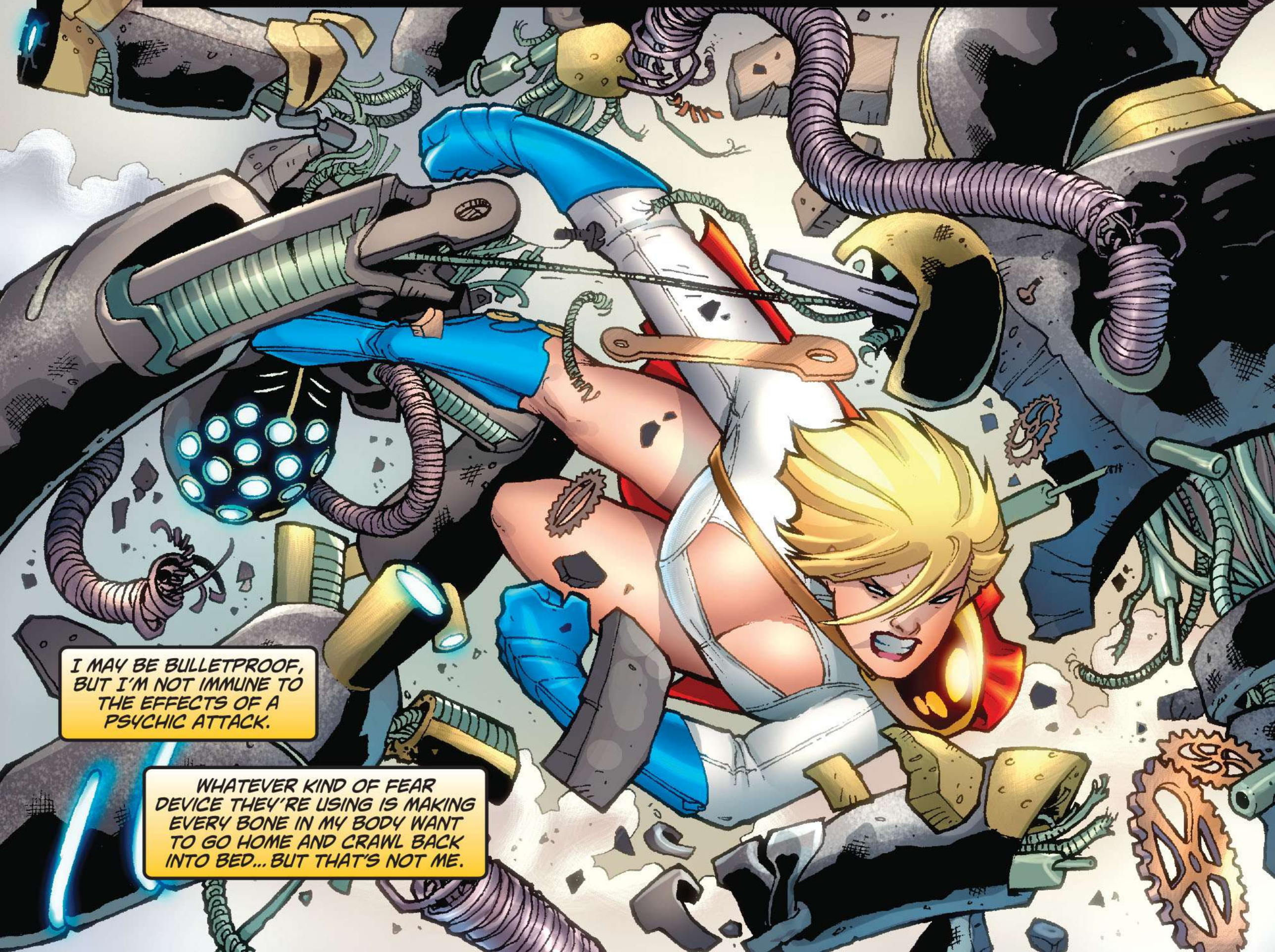
EVERYONE MOVE OUT THE BACK OF THE RESTAURANT! HELP THE WOUNDED! GO!
POWER GIRL! HELL YEAH!
KICK THEIR BUTTS, PEE-GEE!

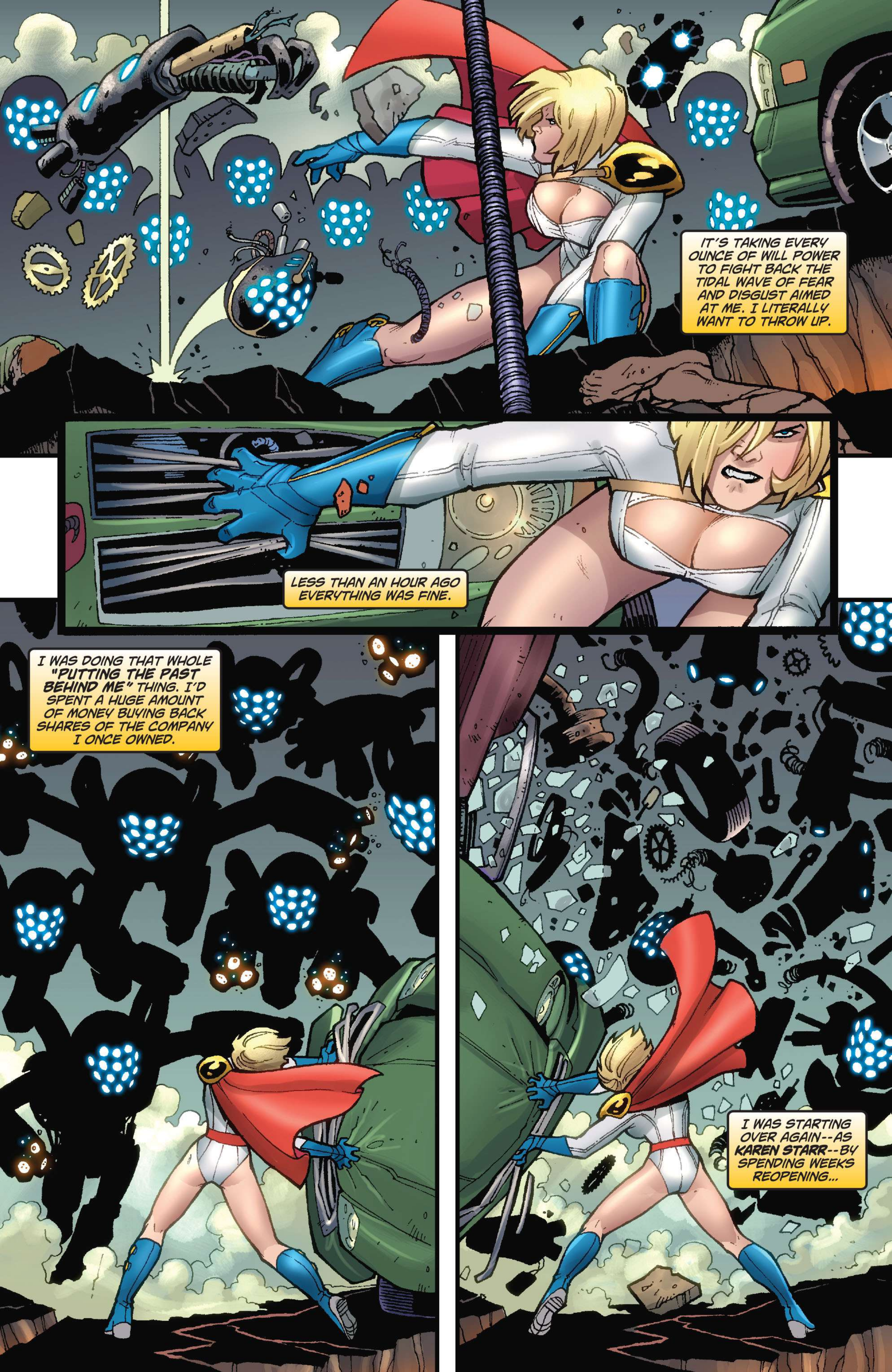


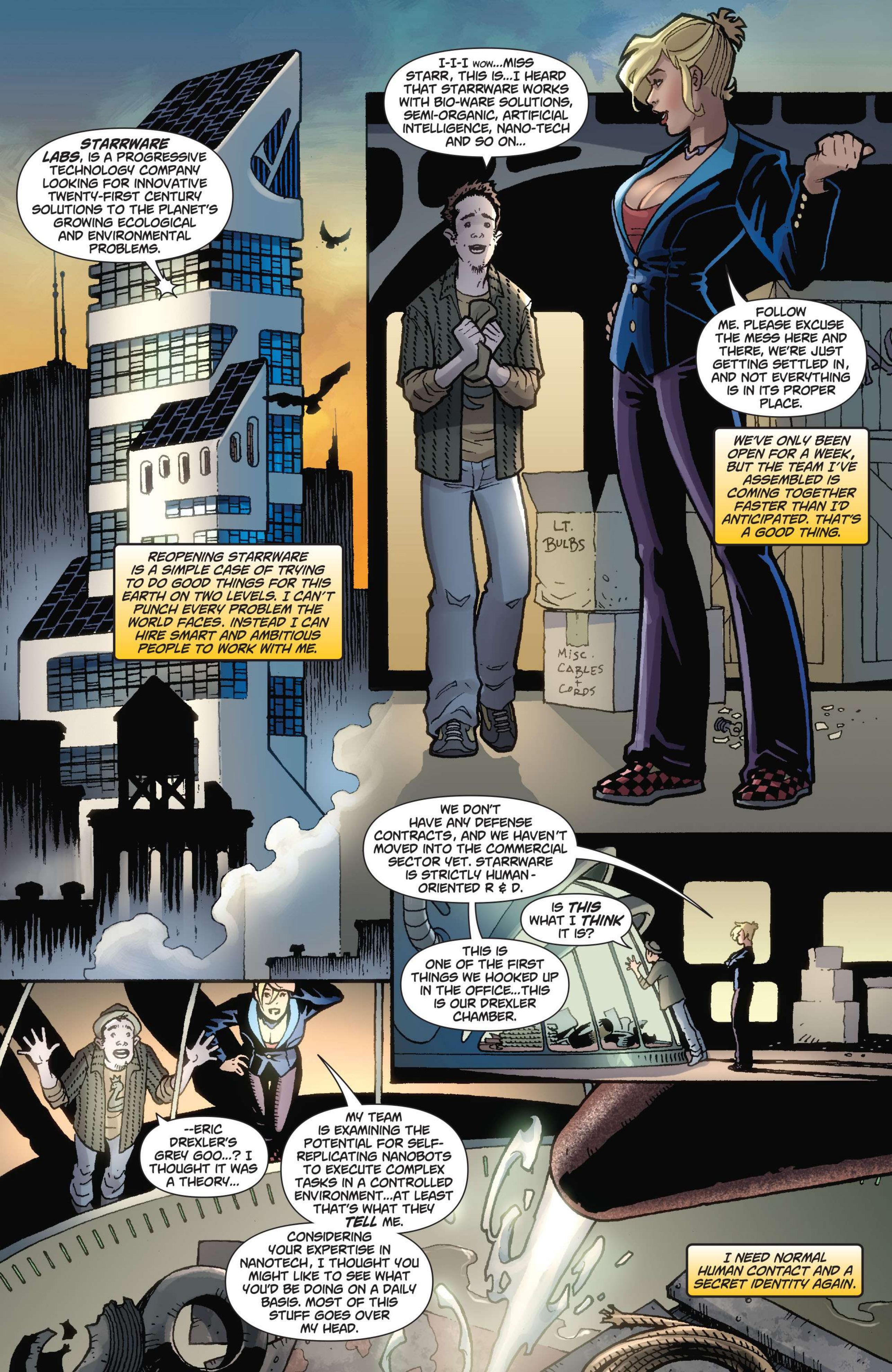
GOOD NEWS.

THEY'RE MACHINES.






IT'S TAKING EVERY OUNCE OF WILL POWER TO FIGHT BACK THE TIDAL WAVE OF FEAR AND DISGUST AIMED AT ME. I LITERALLY WANT TO THROW UP.
LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO EVERYTHING WAS FINE.
I WAS DOING THAT WHOLE "PUTTING THE PAST BEHIND ME" THING. I'D SPENT A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY BUYING BACK SHARES OF THE COMPANY I ONCE OWNED.
I WAS STARTING OVER AGAIN--AS KAREN STARR--BY SPENDING WEEKS REOPENING...


STARRWARE LABS, IS A PROGRESSIVE TECHNOLOGY COMPANY LOOKING FOR INNOVATIVE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SOLUTIONS TO THE PLANET'S GROWING ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.
REOPENING STARRWARE IS A SIMPLE CASE OF TRYING TO DO GOOD THINGS FOR THIS EARTH ON TWO LEVELS. I CAN'T PUNCH EVERY PROBLEM THE WORLD FACES. INSTEAD I CAN HIRE SMART AND AMBITIOUS PEOPLE TO WORK WITH ME.
I-I-I WOW...MISS STARR, THIS IS...I HEARD THAT STARRWARE WORKS WITH BIO-WARE SOLUTIONS, SEMI-ORGANIC, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, NANO-TECH AND SO ON...
FOLLOW ME. PLEASE EXCUSE THE MESS HERE AND THERE, WE'RE JUST GETTING SETTLED IN, AND NOT EVERYTHING IS IN ITS PROPER PLACE.
WE'VE ONLY BEEN OPEN FOR A WEEK, BUT THE TEAM I'VE ASSEMBLED IS COMING TOGETHER FASTER THAN I'D ANTICIPATED. THAT'S A GOOD THING.
LT. BULBS
MISC. CABLES + CORDS
WE DON'T HAVE ANY DEFENSE CONTRACTS, AND WE HAVEN'T MOVED INTO THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR YET. STARRWARE IS STRICTLY HUMAN-ORIENTED R & D.
IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?
THIS IS ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WE HOOKED UP IN THE OFFICE...THIS IS OUR DREXLER CHAMBER.
--ERIC DREXLER'S GREY GOO...? I THOUGHT IT WAS A THEORY...
MY TEAM IS EXAMINING THE POTENTIAL FOR SELF-REPLICATING NANOBOTS TO EXECUTE COMPLEX TASKS IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT...AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY TELL ME.
CONSIDERING YOUR EXPERTISE IN NANOTECH, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE WHAT YOU'D BE DOING ON A DAILY BASIS. MOST OF THIS STUFF GOES OVER MY HEAD.
I NEED NORMAL HUMAN CONTACT AND A SECRET IDENTITY AGAIN.

WHAT I *DO* KNOW IS THAT THIS PARTICULAR BATCH IS PROGRAMMED TO BUILD A 1966 PONTIAC GTO FROM THE RAW MATERIALS WE PROVIDED.

STARRWARE IS A GREAT WAY TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE AND STILL KEEP THEM AT A DISTANCE.

WOW!

I MEAN...THAT'S REMARKABLE. REALLY.

WHY AN OLD MUSCLE CAR? WHY NOT SOMETHING ELSE?

"WOW" IS A GOOD WAY TO DESCRIBE IT, DEXTER. THERE'S A LOT HAPPENING HERE THAT YOU WON'T SEE AT M.I.T. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE HALF OF IT, SO YOU'D BE REQUIRED TO FILE DAILY LOGS FOR DONNA ANDERSON TO REVIEW.

I'M TRYING TO REMIND OUR RESEARCH TEAM THAT AMERICA USED TO STAND FOR INGENUITY, STYLE, A SENSE OF ADVENTURE AND DEPENDABILITY. WE NEED THAT KIND OF SPIRIT IF WE'RE GOING TO TACKLE 21ST CENTURY PROBLEMS

NOW, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE JOB, I'D LIKE YOU TO STOP BY HUMAN RESOURCES ON THE SEVENTIETH FLOOR.

SURE MISS STARR... I'M, UH, VERY INTERESTED!

GOOD. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M LATE FOR ANOTHER INTERVIEW.

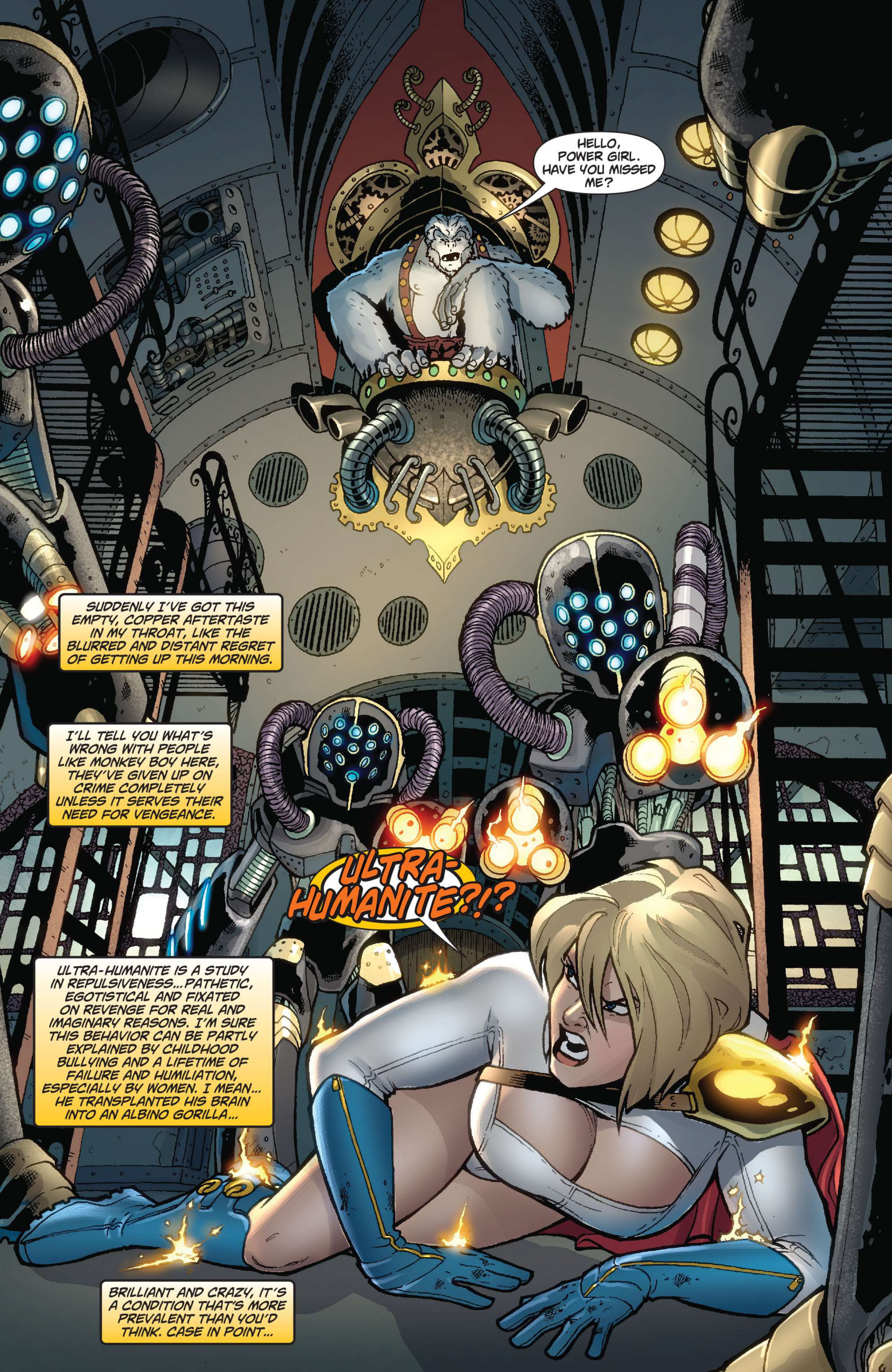
DEXTER NICHOLS IS A GOOD KID, SHY, AWKWARD AND TALL AS A BEANSTALK BUT BRILLIANT. I CAN OVERLOOK HIS STARING AT MY CHEST. IT'S SOMETHING I HAD TO GET USED TO A LONG TIME AGO.

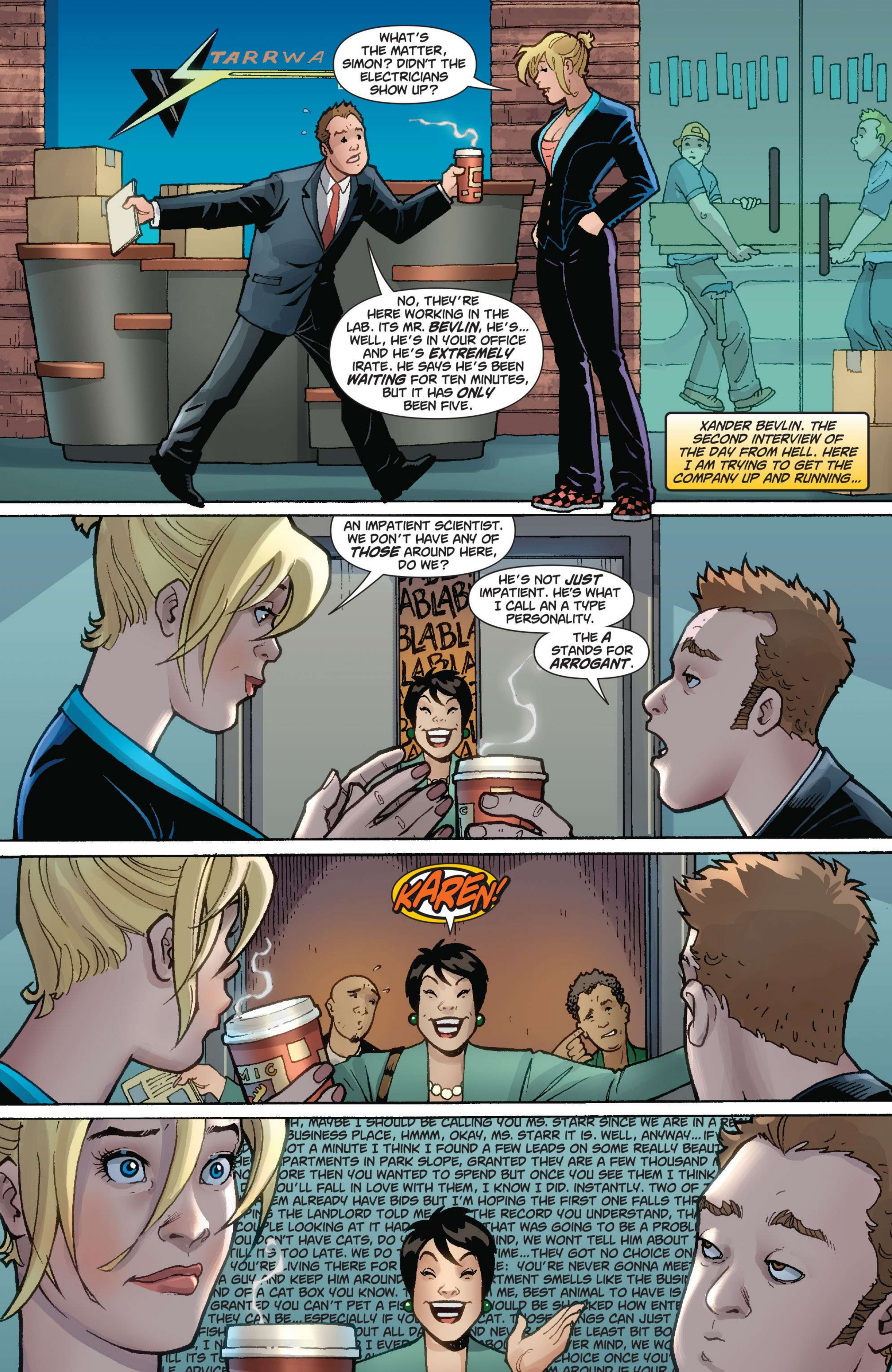
HUMAN RESOURCES, MR. NICHOLS.

RIGHT! OKAY, SEE YOU AROUND THEN!

ORIGINALLY FROM THE MID-WEST, DEXTER HAS THOSE DOWN-HOME VALUES WHICH GRATE AGAINST THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF BIG CITY LIFE. BUT I LIKE HAVING THAT KIND OF PERSON AROUND. HE'S HONEST, GROUNDED AND...

--UNLIKE WHAT I'M UP AGAINST NOW, DEXTER IS VERY HUMAN.
I JUST WISH I KNEW WHY THE ENTIRE ISLAND WAS SHAKING.
<4rrIW4I:{@}lock/bl33d \\ void (x=7) ... error //e88o8 oo11o1o1...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT NOISE IS. MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF AUDITORY FEAR CODE?
WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING US?
GHHAAAAHHH!!!
HURTS... SO... MUCH...
FEAR... CONFUSION... ANGUISH... MORE INTENSE THAN... EVER BEFORE...
THIS IS BAD...


HELLO, POWER GIRL. HAVE YOU MISSED ME?
SUDDENLY I'VE GOT THIS EMPTY, COPPER AFTERTASTE IN MY THROAT, LIKE THE BLURRED AND DISTANT REGRET OF GETTING UP THIS MORNING.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S WRONG WITH PEOPLE LIKE MONKEY BOY HERE, THEY'VE GIVEN UP ON CRIME COMPLETELY UNLESS IT SERVES THEIR NEED FOR VENGEANCE.
ULTRA-HUMANITE?!?
ULTRA-HUMANITE IS A STUDY IN REPULSIVENESS...PATHETIC, EGOTISTICAL AND FIXATED ON REVENGE FOR REAL AND IMAGINARY REASONS. I'M SURE THIS BEHAVIOR CAN BE PARTLY EXPLAINED BY CHILDHOOD BULLYING AND A LIFETIME OF FAILURE AND HUMILIATION, ESPECIALLY BY WOMEN. I MEAN... HE TRANSPLANTED HIS BRAIN INTO AN ALBINO GORILLA...
BRILLIANT AND CRAZY, IT'S A CONDITION THAT'S MORE PREVALENT THAN YOU'D THINK. CASE IN POINT...


STARRWA
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SIMON? DIDN'T THE ELECTRICIANS SHOW UP?
NO, THEY'RE HERE WORKING IN THE LAB. ITS MR. BEVLIN, HE'S... WELL, HE'S IN YOUR OFFICE AND HE'S EXTREMELY IRATE. HE SAYS HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR TEN MINUTES, BUT IT HAS ONLY BEEN FIVE.
XANDER BEVLIN. THE SECOND INTERVIEW OF THE DAY FROM HELL. HERE I AM TRYING TO GET THE COMPANY UP AND RUNNING...
AN IMPATIENT SCIENTIST. WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE AROUND HERE, DO WE?
HE'S NOT JUST IMPATIENT. HE'S WHAT I CALL AN A TYPE PERSONALITY.
THE A STANDS FOR ARROGANT.
KAREN!

MS. LIEB, I'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE SIMON HERE CALL YOU AND SET UP A TIME I WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO LOOK AT THEM. I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE, BUT I HAVE A FULL SCHEDULE RIGHT NOW... SIMON.
MARTIE IS SWEET, BUT SHE GIVES ME A HEADACHE.

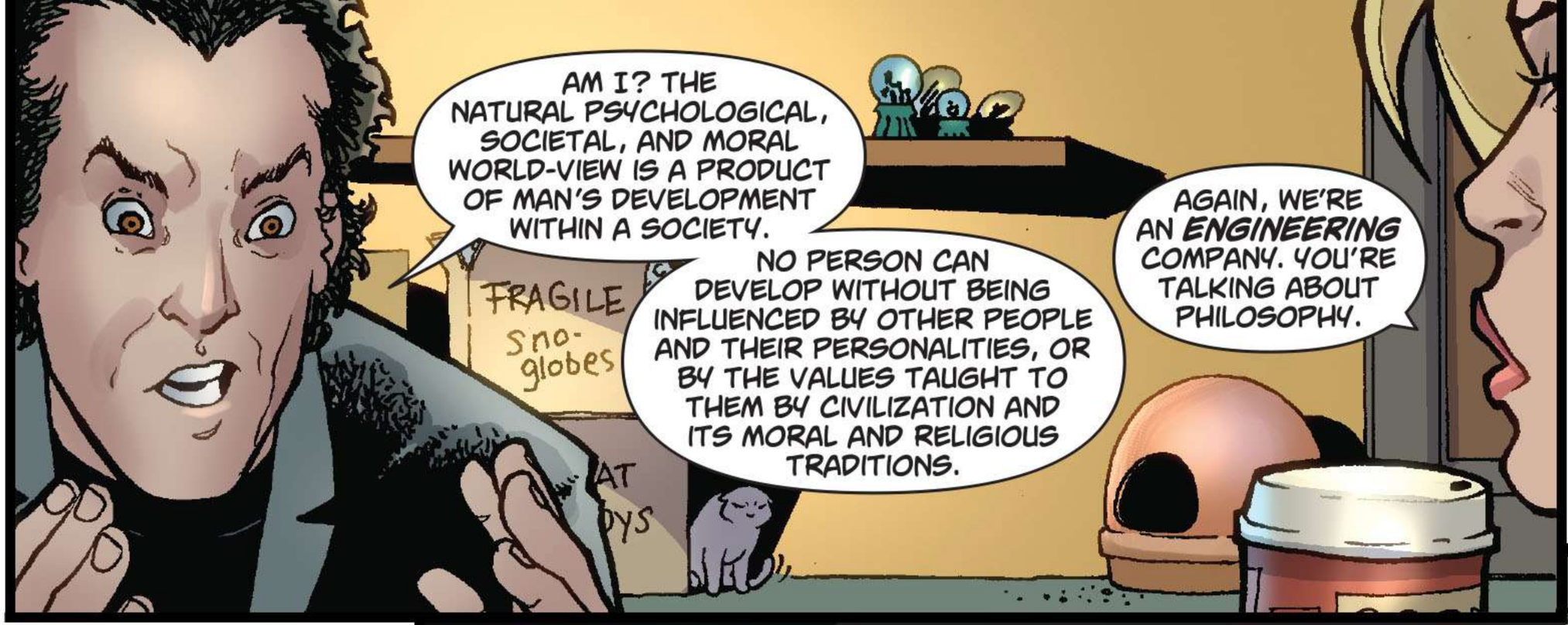
CALL IF YOU NEED AN ESCAPE ROUTE FROM BEVLIN.
RIGHT THIS WAY, MS. LIEB...
IT ISN'T EASY SETTING UP A COMPANY, LET ALONE IN MANHATTAN DURING A FINANCIAL CRISIS WHERE MOST BANKS AND LENDERS ARE FOLDING LIKE TENTS ALONG WALL STREET.

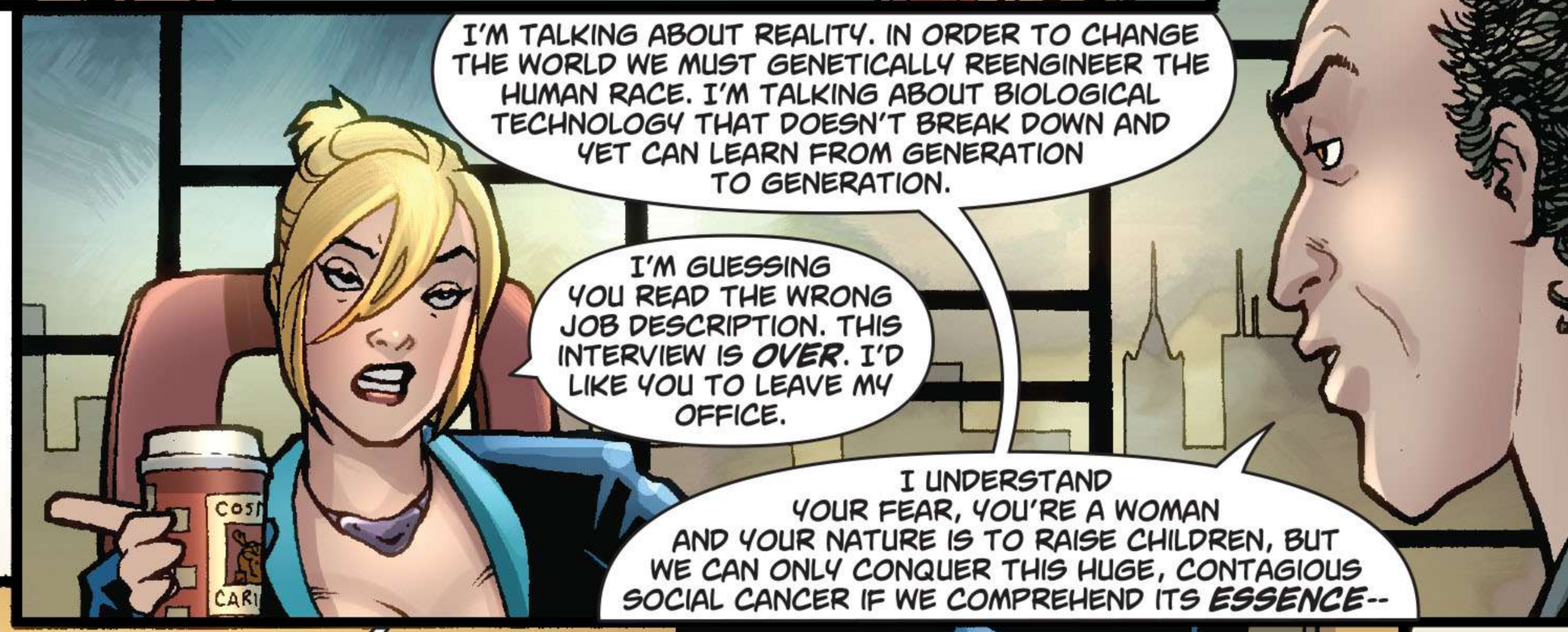
THANKS. I'LL BE FINE. WORK ON GETTING ME A DOORKNOB.

WE'RE NOT FULLY FUNCTIONAL YET, BUT WE SHOULD BE BY THE END OF THE MONTH. UNTIL THEN I HAVE TO DEAL WITH JERKS LIKE...
MISTER BEVLIN...

PLEASE PUT DOWN THAT SNOW GLOBE AND GET OUT OF MY CHAIR.
STRANGE GLOBE.

AHH, YES, MISS STARR. UM, LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING...
WHEN THE U.S. MILITARY FOUND OUT THAT ROBERT OPPENHEIMER AND THE BOYS OF THE MANHATTAN PROJECT HAD UNLOCKED THE SECRET OF THE ATOM BOMB, DO YOU THINK THEY LEFT THEM WAITING IN AN OFFICE?
STARRWARE DOESN'T MAKE BOMBS, MR. BEVLIN.
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SAVING THE PLANET. MY RESEARCH CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE THAT.
CAN IT?
I BOUGHT YOU THE
STATISTICS TELL US THAT THERE ARE MORE PSYCHOLOGICALLY SICK PEOPLE THAN HEALTHY ONES. IF YOU TAKE A SAMPLING OF INDIVIDUALS IN ANY GIVEN OCCUPATION, YOU FIND THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THEM DISPLAY PATHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS.
WE LIVE IN A PSYCHOLOGICALLY UNHEALTHY WORLD. IF YOU WANT TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING, POLLUTION, CLUBBING BABY SEALS AND WHATNOT, THEN YOU NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE PLANET.
CHANGE IS SLOW, BUT WE ARE MAKING STRIDES IN CHANGING THE WAY PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT. AGAIN, PLEASE STOP MESSING WITH MY GLOBES.
SORRY, BAD HABIT... ANYWAY, YOU MISS MY POINT. CHANGE IS TOO SLOW. I'M SUGGESTING CHANGING HUMAN THOUGHT PATTERNS ON A GLOBAL SCALE.
YOU'RE DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO SOUNDING PSYCHOLOGICALLY UNHEALTHY YOURSELF, MR. BEVLIN.


AM I? THE NATURAL PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIETAL, AND MORAL WORLD-VIEW IS A PRODUCT OF MAN'S DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A SOCIETY.
NO PERSON CAN DEVELOP WITHOUT BEING INFLUENCED BY OTHER PEOPLE AND THEIR PERSONALITIES, OR BY THE VALUES TAUGHT TO THEM BY CIVILIZATION AND ITS MORAL AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS.
AGAIN, WE'RE AN ENGINEERING COMPANY. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT PHILOSOPHY.
FRAGILE
Sno-globes


I'M TALKING ABOUT REALITY. IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE WORLD WE MUST GENETICALLY REENGINEER THE HUMAN RACE. I'M TALKING ABOUT BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY THAT DOESN'T BREAK DOWN AND YET CAN LEARN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.
I'M GUESSING YOU READ THE WRONG JOB DESCRIPTION. THIS INTERVIEW IS OVER. I'D LIKE YOU TO LEAVE MY OFFICE.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEAR, YOU'RE A WOMAN AND YOUR NATURE IS TO RAISE CHILDREN, BUT WE CAN ONLY CONQUER THIS HUGE, CONTAGIOUS SOCIAL CANCER IF WE COMPREHEND ITS ESSENCE--

WHAT I COMPREHEND IS THAT YOU WANT TO CONTROL THE WAY PEOPLE THINK. YOU WANT TO BIOENGINEER PEOPLE TO THINK ACCORDING TO SOME PREPROGRAMMED IDEAS.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE OTHERS. YOU DON'T GET IT. PEOPLE LIKE YOU KEEP HUMANITY FROM ACHIEVING GODHOOD.

PEOPLE LIKE ME KEEP LUNATICS LIKE YOURSELF AWAY FROM THE TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE YOUR TWISTED DREAMS A REALITY.
NOW GET OUT AND TAKE YOUR SEXIST NONSENSE WITH YOU.

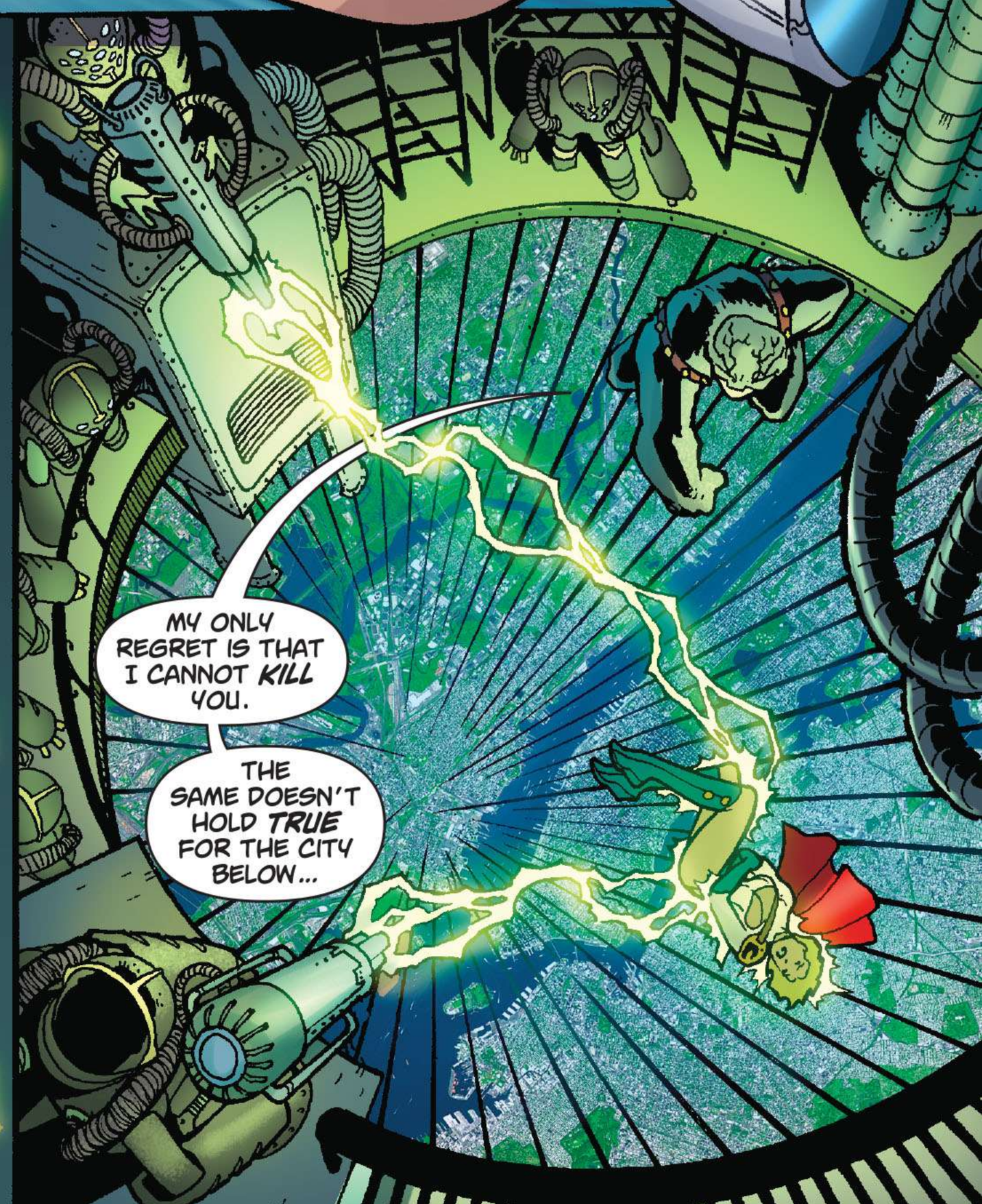
YOU AND EVERYONE LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO BE SORRY YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.
LAST CHANCE BEFORE I THROW YOU OUT. HAVE A GOOD DAY.
GUYS LIKE BEVLIN...

--TURN INTO GUYS LIKE ULTRA-HUMANITE!
I WAS PROMISED THE WORLD IN EXCHANGE FOR YOU.
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT...I'M GETTING THE BETTER DEAL.

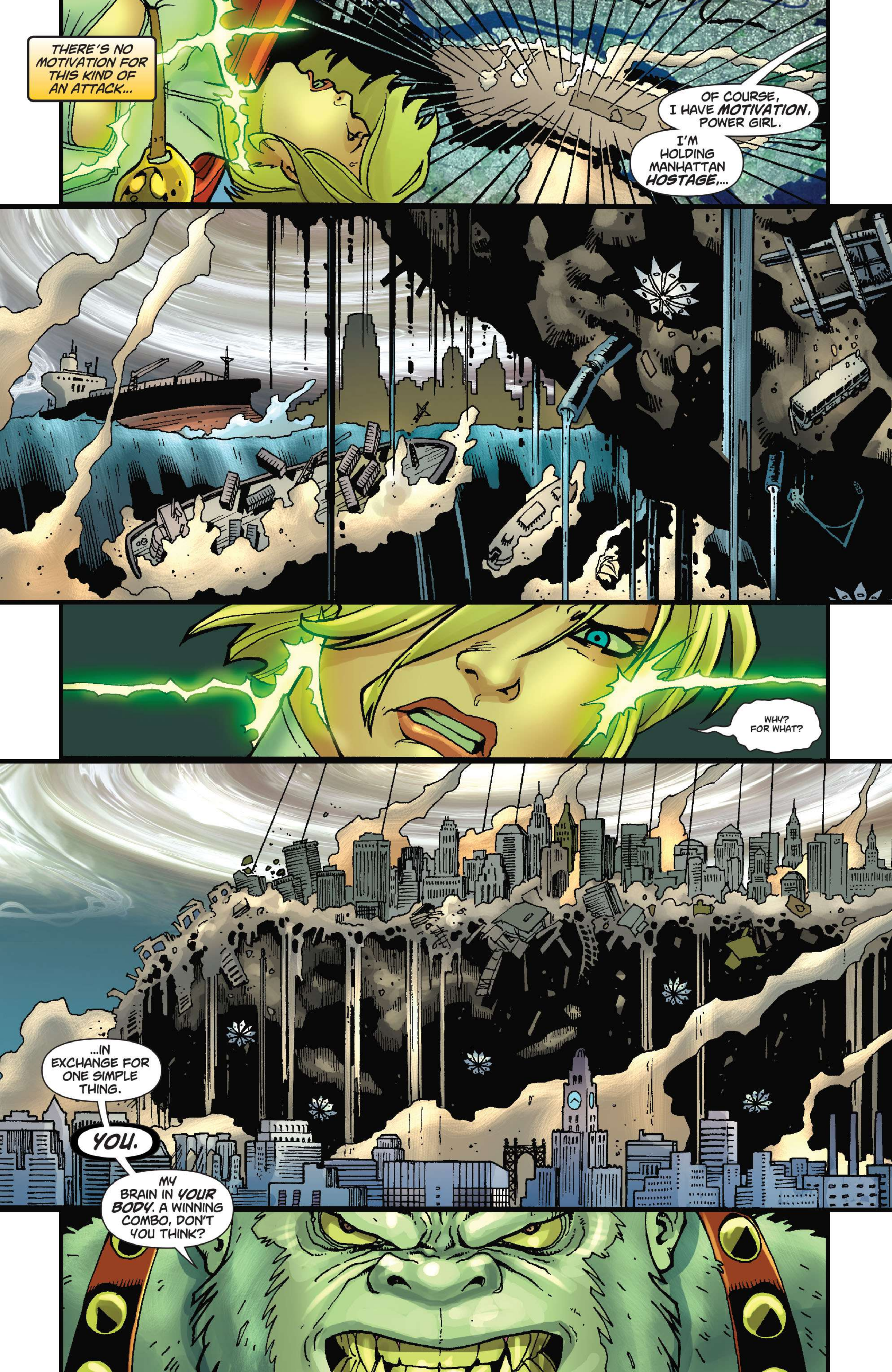
HIS TELEPATHIC ABILITIES ARE OFF THE CHARTS. I CAN'T LET HIM GET HIS HOOKS INTO MY BRAIN.
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE...

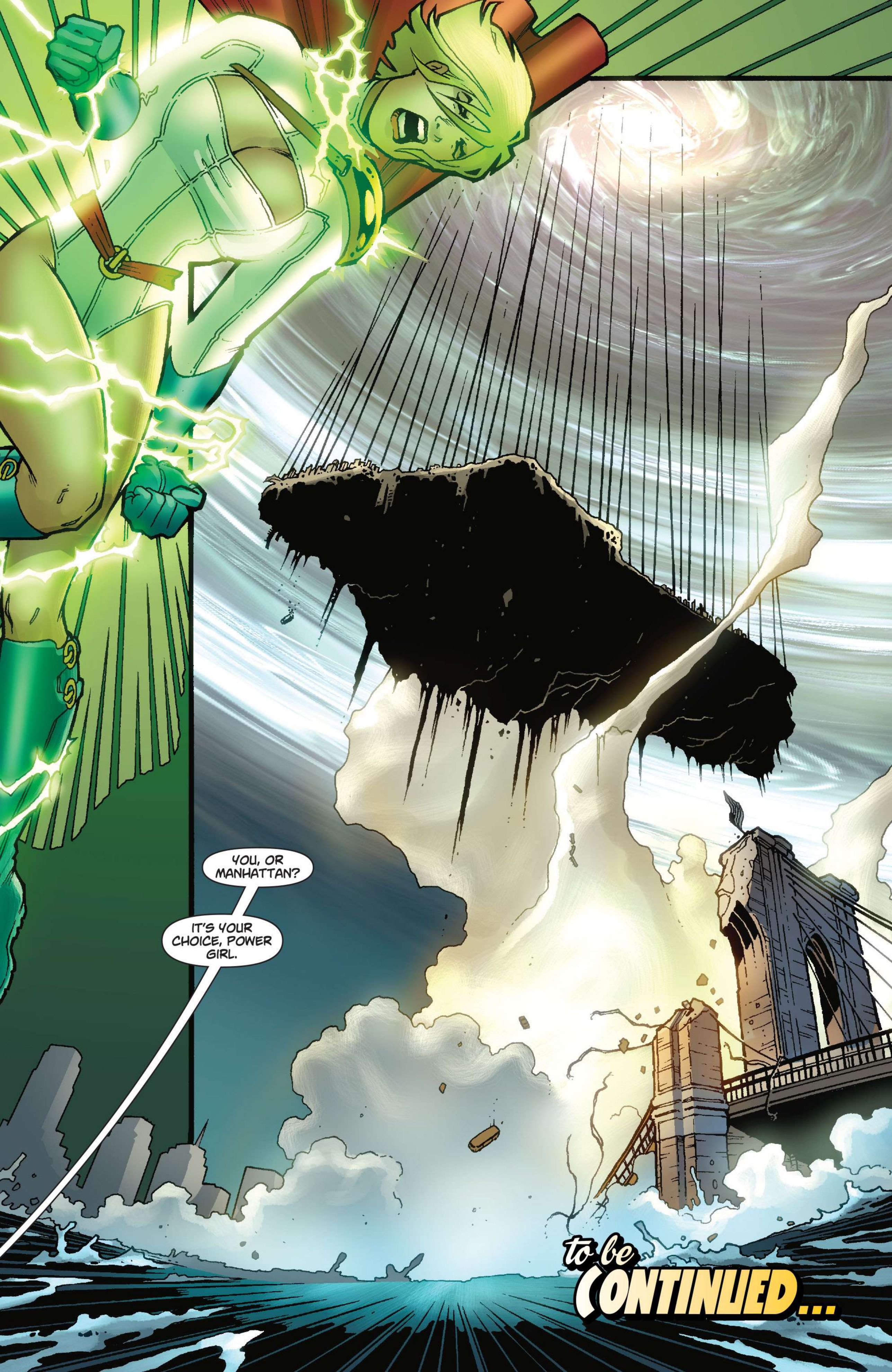
YOU HAVE IT BACKWARD, POWER GIRL!
THIS WORLD IS MINE AND I'M GOING TO RIP IT TO PIECES!

GHNNAAAHHH!!!


MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT I CANNOT KILL YOU.
THE SAME DOESN'T HOLD TRUE FOR THE CITY BELOW...

I CHOSE THIS CITY, THIS EARTH, TO MAKE MY NEW HOME.
I HAVE SWORN TO USE MY POWER TO PROTECT IT AT ALL COSTS, BUT THIS...
THIS IS INSANE.
ULTRA-HUMANITE HAS NEVER HAD THIS MUCH POWER OR HARDWARE AT HIS DISPOSAL.


THERE'S NO MOTIVATION FOR THIS KIND OF AN ATTACK...
OF COURSE, I HAVE MOTIVATION, POWER GIRL.
I'M HOLDING MANHATTAN HOSTAGE,...
WHY? FOR WHAT?
...IN EXCHANGE FOR ONE SIMPLE THING.
YOU.
MY BRAIN IN YOUR BODY. A WINNING COMBO, DON'T YOU THINK?

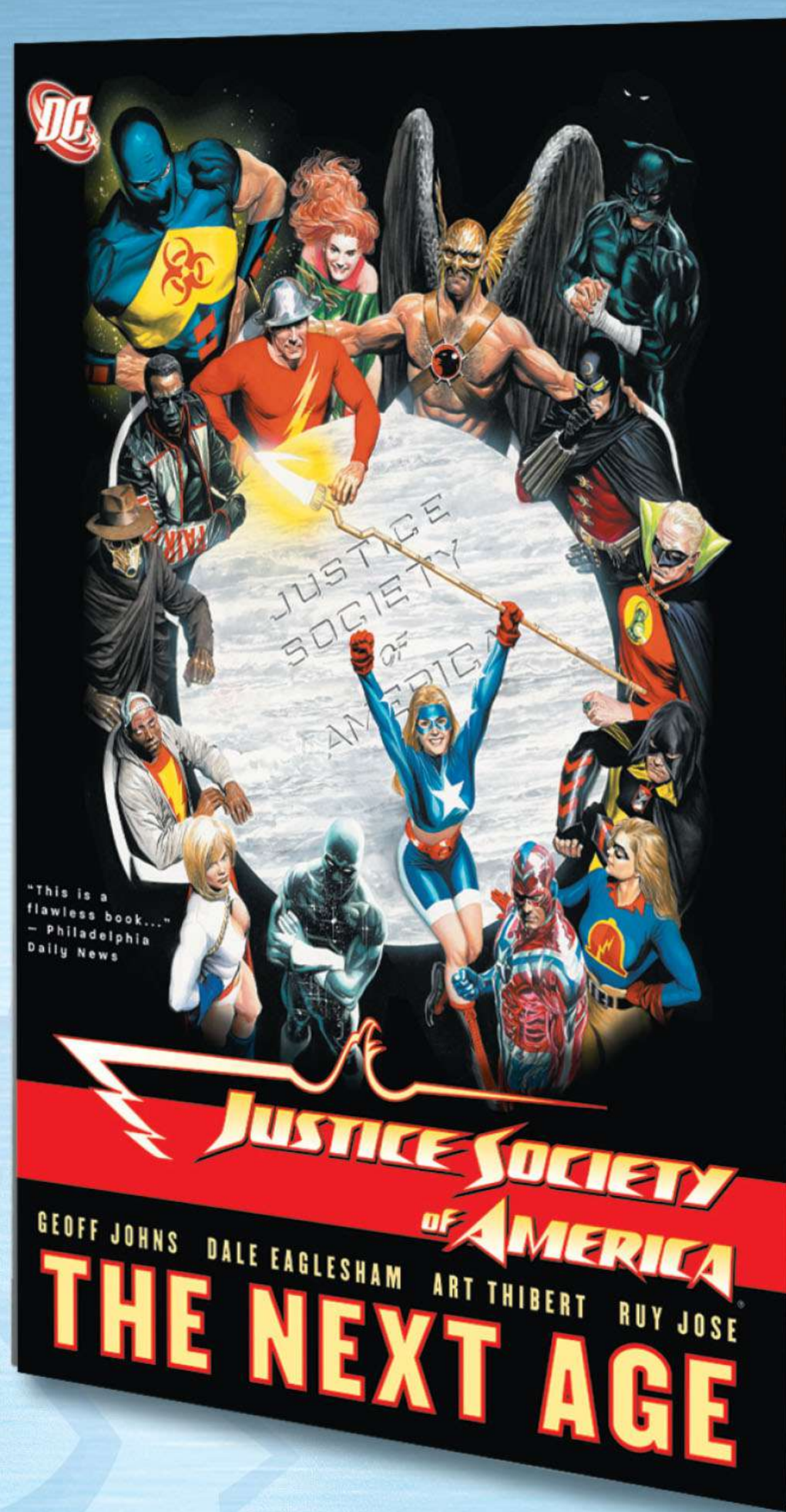

YOU, OR MANHATTAN?
IT'S YOUR CHOICE, POWER GIRL.
to be CONTINUED...

FROM THE WRITER OF
GREEN LANTERN *AND* SUPERMAN

GEOFF JOHNS

with DALE EAGLESHAM

"This is a flawless book."
– PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS



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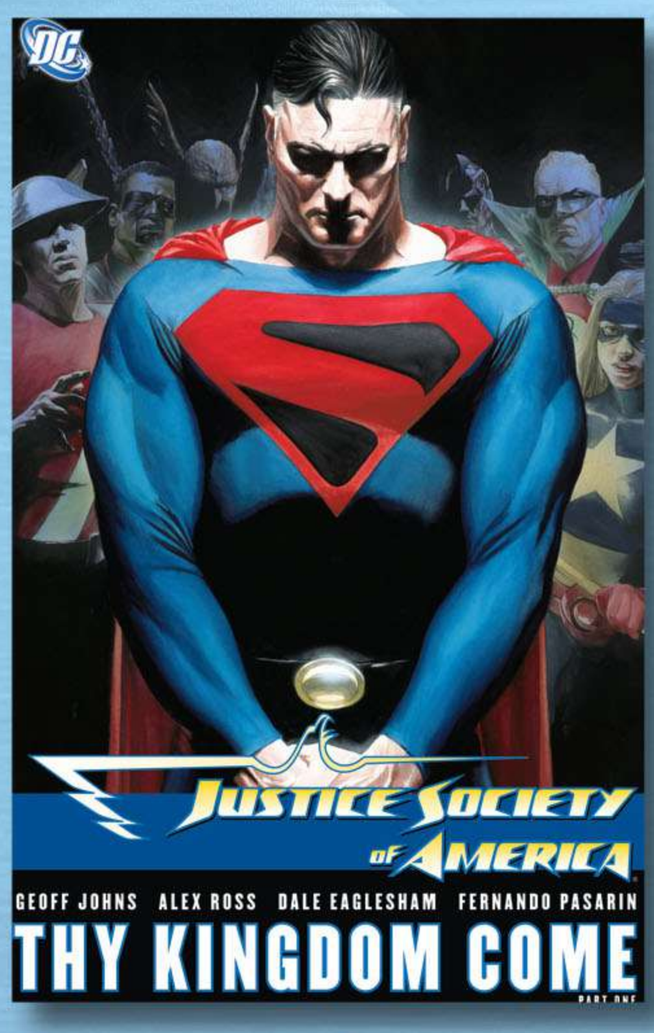

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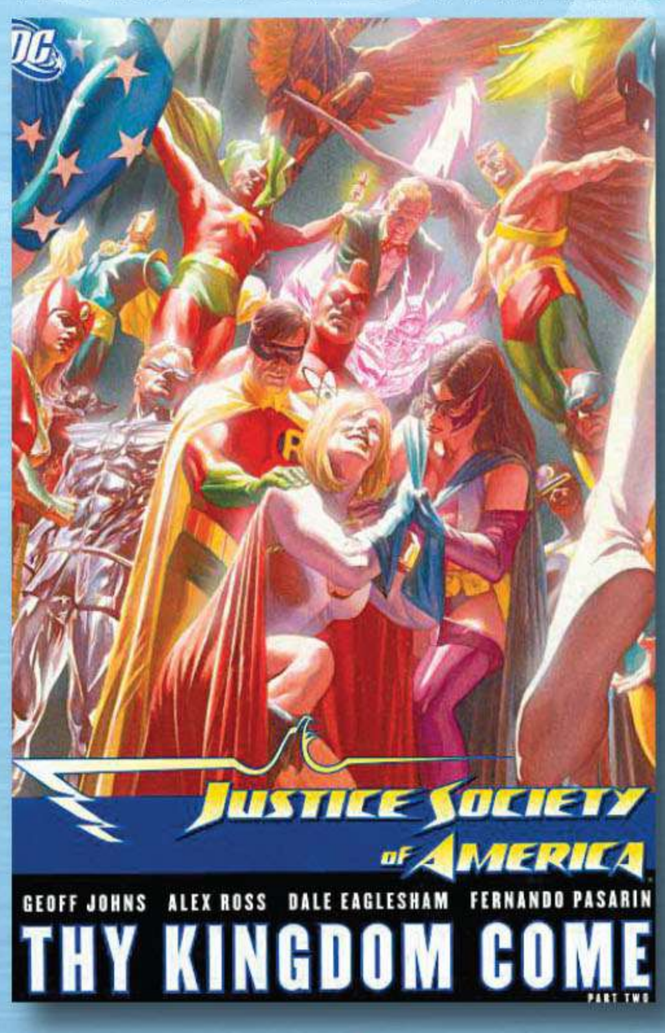

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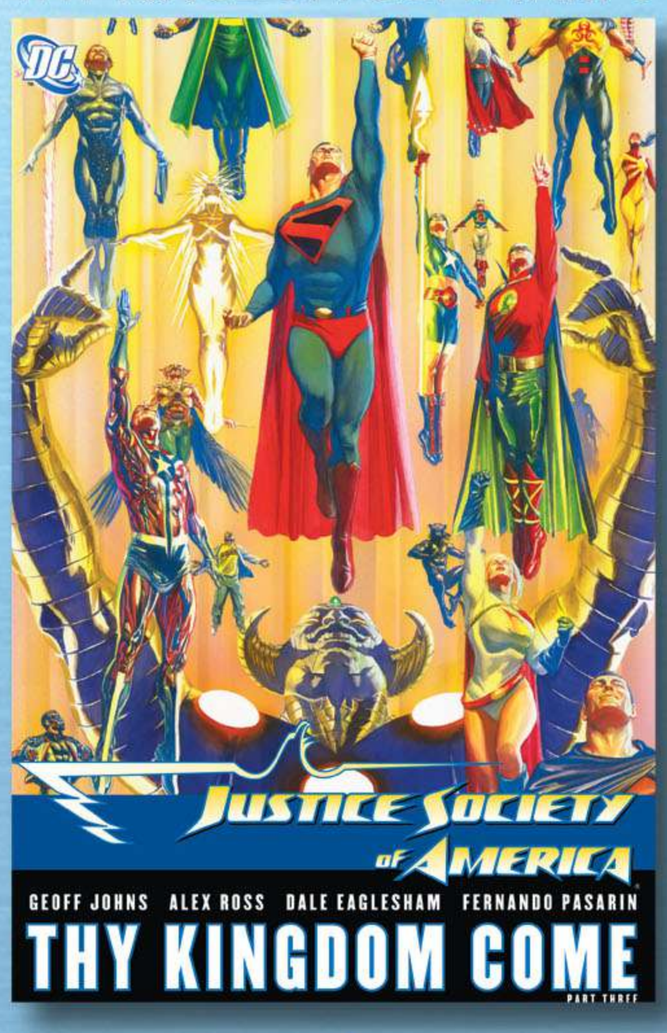

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